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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CIA EGYPT UN PAKISTAN THAILAND
CLIMATE;BERLIN

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- F. (U.S.) Environmental Policies

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A. Lead Stories Summary

HEADLINES

Khler Supports Teaching About Islam - "Knowledge Of German Indispensable" (Frankfurter Allgemeine)

Surveillance Scandal Roils Italy (S|ddeutsche Zeitung)

Khler Calls Education System "Disgraceful" (Die Welt)

Grand Coalition In Deep Crisis (Frankfurter Rundschau)

Khler: No Democracy Without Education (Tagesspiegel)

Struck Warns Against Merkel's Failure (Berliner Zeitung)

Editorials focused on education policy. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute led with a report on the Lebanon mission, and ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau opened with a story on President Khler's address to the nation.

B. (GWOT) CIA Renditions

1. "Special Rules For The CIA"

Christian Rath commented in leftist die tageszeitung of Berlin (9/22):

"This is a scandal within a scandal: For more than nine months, the Munich prosecutors knew of the names of CIA agents who kidnapped the German citizen Khaled el-Masri at the end of 2003. But no arrest warrant has been issued. That the names are cover names cannot justify this inactivity. Arrest warrants are often issued for normal criminals under their cover names. However, the issuance of arrest warrants would not resolve all of the problems of the prosecutors, especially not in this case. The U.S. would certainly not extradite their agents, regardless of how clear their identities are. They might just be given new passports and identities and become active again across the world. Of course, the real people to blame are those who ordered the (absolutely ridiculous) rendition. This is about the political significance of the prosecution. Globally speaking, any exception from international law and human rights by Western states allow the U.S. to undermine the moral integrity of Western democracies in the fight against Islamic terrorism. Therefore, it is bad if the impression arises that different standards are applied to CIA agents than to spies from countries like Libya and Iran."

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C. (Egypt) Nuclear Program

1. "Lighting In Cairo"

Business daily Financial Times Deutschland of Hamburg (9/22) editorialized:

"The trendsetter for the Middle East has his home in Tehran. The Islamic Republic Iran does not just define the international agenda with its nuclear program, President Ahmadinejad is also fascinating

the region with his contrarian populism. This can be seen in Egypt, where Gamal Mubarak, the son and desired successor of President Hosni Mubarak, has spoken.... Egypt needs a civil nuclear program, he said, and added that the U.S. has no right to interfere in the region.... As a representative of the people, Gamal is certainly not very credible. The small democratic and the large Islamic opposition in Egypt reject the idea of him succeeding his father. Demands for more democracy in Cairo are therefore directed at him.... The mixture of tough anti-Americanism and social promises, with which Ahmadinejad came to power, is also working in Egypt, America's most important Arab partner.... There have been many warnings against a nuclear arms race in the region. This competition will begin as soon as Iran succeeds in the nuclear dispute with the international community."

D. (UN) General Assembly

1. "Rowdy Heroes"

Nicolas Richter commented in center-left Sddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (9/22):

"Chavez and Ahmadinejad have no agenda with reachable goals for the developing world. Their fake fight for the weak people only helps themselves. Those who moan about the misery in the south must address the injustice of the globalization process as well as mismanagement and corruption at home. Self-righteous performances of the populists from Venezuela and Iran do not help the South, apart from making people there feel nice for a moment. Their confrontation with Bush makes clear what outgoing UN Secretary General had warned about: More than a decade after the end of the Cold War, the world is so divided that the words 'international community' remains an illusion."

2. "Beyond Pathos And Phrases"

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Jacques Schuster noted in right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (9/22):

"You are a fool if you believe the notion of the end of the nation-state. [National] governments will remain making politics, regardless of whether you think that is right or wrong. However, the United Nations has its place. If you see it as the world's forum for debates, and do not overstretch its significance like the Europeans usually do, it is an important place to exchange views. It is not more and not less than that. If the West were to turn against Tehran without a UN resolution because the UN Security Council blocks it, those who become outraged should then remember the Berlin crisis. If America had made its airlift dependent on the vote of the Security Council, Berliners would have starved."

3. "Self-Paralyzes"

Friedemann Diederichs remarked in centrist Schweriner Volkszeitung (9/22):

"Iran's Ahmadinejad did not just insult the UN as the host, but also presented so many stupid lies that archivists would need to write very quickly to catch them all. And the formerly controversial Bush? He presented himself completely changed as a tame diplomat, although everyone behind the curtains says that years of talking would not persuade Iran to suspend its nuclear arms program. The use of the UN General Assembly has been very limited. Outgoing Secretary General Annan must be pitied. He tried for ten years to increase the influence of the world organization on crisis situations. Once more, the helplessness and indecisiveness of the UN has become manifest."

E. (Pakistan) President Bush's Statement

1. "Bush On A Wrong Path"

Michael Clasen commented in right-of-center Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung (9/22):

"Pakistani President Musharraf is sitting on a political powder keg in Islamabad that can explode at anytime. President Bush seems to ignore this, like so many other things in the war on terror. This can have devastating consequences. If Bush wants to betray one of his most important allies in the counterterrorism fight, he should continue his bluster about a U.S. invasion of Pakistan. Musharraf's annoyance is more than justified. Such talk by the U.S. President is a good excuse for fundamentalists, who are looking for another example to prove their propaganda of a crusade against Islam. It is

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very bad that the U.S. and Europe do not realize the drama and leave Musharraf to himself. Without strong political, social, and cultural assistance, not just Pakistan would face difficult times, but also the mission in Afghanistan would fail."

F. (Thailand) Military Coup

1. "Back To The Past"

Sabine Muscat commented business daily Financial Times Deutschland of Hamburg (9/22):

"Southeast Asia has remarkable democratic successes to show off. Lively civil societies were able to start establishing a middle class and investigate crimes of former dictatorships. However, democrats among Asia's elite are rare.... After the coup in Thailand, the region is threatened with a political backlash. It can only be prevented if other countries in Southeast Asia realize the opportunity and become beacons of hope after it has become dark in Bangkok. Indonesia, which tries to attract more international investors, could gain ground in this competition with its democratic achievements."

F. (U.S.) Environmental Policies

1. "Clean Terminator"

Business daily Handelsblatt of D|sseldorf (9/22) editorialized:

"Like so many things in the U.S., climate policy will now be an issue for the courts. Bill Lockyer, the attorney general of the most important U.S. state of California, is suing six major automakers for compensation over gas emissions.... Environmental protection is an issue with which you can win elections in California. Not just the Democrat Lockyer has realized this, but also the Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who recently accepted a compromise to cut gas emissions between 2012 and 2020 by one quarter in the California. With this climate protection initiative, Schwarzenegger has clearly increased his reelection chances."

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